

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Isham Gurley R4393

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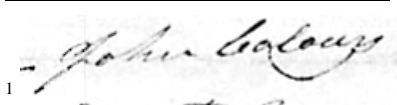
Transcribed by Will Graves

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[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Alabama, Pickens County: SS

On this 17th day of April 1832 personally appeared in open court, being a court of record for the said County of Pickens, having by law a seal & clerk, Isham Gurley, a resident of said County & State, who being first duly sworn, according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832, about Seventy-five years of age – That he was born in Johnson [sic, Johnston] County in North Carolina, on the 13th of January 1759 as he ascertained from a record to that effect made in a Bible belonging to his parents, which he caused to be transcribed into his own Bible which he now has in his own house. That he was residing in the said Johnston County when he was called into Service. That his first service he thinks was early in the year 1776, in which he volunteered for a term uncertain, though not to exceed three months, that he served about one month, & was regularly discharged, it not being necessary that the Service should continue longer. That he served under Colonel Samuel Smith & Captain Hardy Bryan. That Captain John Colours [almost certainly a misspelling of "John Cullers"]¹ also commanded a volunteer company in the same expedition. That he marched from Johnston County to Wilmington of North Carolina, the object of the expedition was to oppose the British troops should they attempt to land, & to guard Wilmington & its vicinity. That he was in no battle during the Service, was marched back into Johnston County, received a written discharge given by Colonel Samuel Smith, which discharge is so lost or destroyed that he is unable to find or produce it. That he again entered the service of the United States as a volunteer, still residing in the said Johnston County. That he volunteered for the term of five months in the latter part of the year 1778, continued in the Service for the term of five months except a few days, & was regularly discharged in the early part of the year 1775. That he performed this service under General Ash [John Ashe] Colonel William Caswell, Captain John Whitley, & Lieutenant Matthew Colours [probably Lt. Matthew McCullers] – That he marched from the said Johnston County, through South Carolina to Augusta. That their troops were halted & encamped on the Savannah River, on the side opposite to Augusta where they remained 2 or 3 days, when they crossed the River & remained in Augusta 2 or 3 days, & then marched down the River to Brier [Briar] Creek, where they encamped, & remained 4 or 5 days, when they were attacked by the British troops commanded by Colonel Campbell [Lt. Col. Archibald Campbell] a battle ensued [Battle of Briar Creek, March 3, 1779] & continued for a short time when the American troops were overpowered and forced to retreat, & being opposed on one side by the Savannah River, & Briar Creek on the other, & in the rear by the enemy, those who escaped swam either the Creek or River & numbers were drowned in the attempt to swim. That they traveled in disorder & much scattered down the Savannah River until they reached the White House, where was then kept a magazine, & where



General Ashe had stopped & ordered the troops to stop, as they arrived in the above mentioned scattered & disordered situation. That they then marched to a water course called Salt catchey [sic, Salkehatchie River], thence to Jubbs' ferry [?]² on Savannah River where they remained several days, during which time a battle was fought between the British & French troops in small vessels in Savannah River below Purrysburg. That at the same time they were encamped at Jubbs' ferry, General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] was stationed at Purrysburg, and this deponent with others from his encampment went, & aided General Lincoln in throwing up breast works where he was waiting for the arrival of De Estings [sic, D'Estaing], after which was the battle of Savannah [Siege of Savannah, September 16-October 18, 1779]. That he was discharged at Jubbs Ferry. That he received a written discharge which is so lost or destroyed by accident & length of time that he is not able to find or procure it. That he does not recollect the name of the officer who signed his discharge, but is satisfied it was signed by one not under the grade of Major, & that it was regular & according to the regulations of the Army in which these service was performed. That since the Revolutionary War he removed to Anson County North Carolina where he resided about ten years, thence to Buncombe County in the same State, thence to Pendleton district South Carolina, thence to Pickens County in the State of Alabama where he now resides & in which he makes this declaration. That he was not employed in any civil pursuit during the above mentioned service. But that he was a private in an embodied corps of militia called into service by competent authority. That he was not acquainted with regular officers, nor does he know that any were in service with him. That he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity, except the present, & he declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of any Agency in this State.

S/ Isham Gurley, X his mark

Sworn to & subscribed in open court the day & year first aforesaid

S/ Francis W. Bostick, Clerk

[Samuel Wier, a clergyman, and George Wilkins gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of Alabama, Pickens County

On this 24th day of October 1835 personally appeared in open court, to wit, the same court mentioned in the first part of the declaration to which this is attached & intended as a part Isham Gurley & made oath that in making his former declaration to which this is attached he was not aware of the necessity of stating the time of Service with entire certainty, but since ascertaining such necessity, he is able to state & does state that in his first service stated in his declaration as being in the year 1776 he served one month & 3 days. And in his 2nd Service as stated in said declaration, as being in the year 1778 & 1779 he served 4 months & 20 days.

Sworn to & subscribed in open court this 28th of October 1835.

S/ Isham Gurley, X his mark

S/ Francis W. Bostick, Clerk

[WTG's note: this veteran didn't get a pension because he didn't claim to have served for the six months minimum required under the 1832 Act.]

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